[Information on the regional divisions of the Indian sub-continent will be found in Chapter XIII, 6: Spate AW1 India.]

1: Radcliffe-Brown E-5 (1906-1908)1922
AZ2 Andamans AZ2

INTRODUCTION

THE Andaman Islands are part of a chain of islands stretching from Cape Negrais in Burma to Achin Head in Sumatra. This line of islands forms a single geographical system, as it were a submarine range of mountains, the highest points rising here and there above the surface of the ocean. Some 80 miles or so from Cape Negrais lies the first of the islands in the chain, Preparis Island, between which and the mainland the sea depth does not exceed 100 fathoms. Southwards of this the submarine ridge sinks to a depth of about 150 fathoms, rising again to form the small group of islands known as the Cocos, some 50 miles from Preparis. Geographically the Cocos may be regarded as part of the Andaman Group. Landfall Island, the most northerly point of the Andamans proper, is only distant from them some 30 miles, and the sea depth between does not exceed 45 fathoms. The Andaman Group itself consists of the Great and Little Andaman with their outlying islets, and occupies a distance approximately north and south of about 210 miles. Eighty miles to the south of the Andamans lie the Nicobar Islands, a scattered archipelago occupying a distance of about 160 miles from north to south. The sea between the Andamans and the Nicobars is over 700 fathoms deep. Deep sea also divides the Nicobars from Sumatra, which is about 110 miles distant from the most southerly point of Great Nicobar.

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This line of islands is part of a long fold extending from the eastern end of the Himalayas, which includes the Arakan Yomah Range of Burma and the Andaman and Nicobar

[p. 1]

1: Radcliffe-Brown E-5 (1906-1908)1922
AZ2 Andamans AZ2

131 133 Islands and finds its continuation in the islands off the west coast of Sumatra[1].

On the west the Andamans are separated from the coast of Madras, 700 miles distant, by the Sea of Bengal. On the east the Andaman Sea, a depression with a depth of over 1000 fathoms, separates the Andamans and Nicobars from the Malay Isthmus and Peninsula. Across the Andaman Sea, less than 100 miles distant from the Andamans, there runs a line of volcanic activity, marked by two small islands, Barren Island in Lat. 12° 15′ N. and Long. 93° 50′ E., and Narkondam in Lat. 13° 26′ N. and Long. 95° 15′ E.[2]

The Cocos, the Andamans and the Nicobars are now part of the Indian Empire. The Cocos Islands are occupied by a station for wireless telegraphy. In the Andaman Islands there is a penal settlement at Port Blair, to which are sent the criminals of India and Burma. The Nicobars are treated as one with the Andamans for administrative purposes.

144 Until the nineteenth century the Cocos Islands were uninhabited. The Andamans and the Nicobars have for many centuries been inhabited by two entirely different races. The Andamanese belong to that branch of the human species known to anthropologists as the Negrito race. They are short of stature with black skins and frizzy hair. The Nicobarese, on the other hand, resemble the races of Indo-China and Malaya, and have brown skins and lank hair, and are of medium stature.

131 133 The Andaman Islands consist of the Great Andaman and the Little Andaman, and a number of smaller islands. The Great Andaman may be regarded as one island, although it is divided by narrow sea water creeks into four areas, often spoken of as separate islands and called North Andaman,

[1] The formation of the Arakan Fold (including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands), dates from the middle of the Tertiary Period, and was apparently connected with the great movements that produced the Himalaya-Alpine mountain system and the Circum-Pacific Fold. The Andaman Sea, in the later Tertiary period, was prolonged much further to the north, over the region now occupied by the Pegu Yomah.

[2] This line of volcanic activity is a minor continuation of the Sunda Range of volcanoes of Java and Sumatra. It is continued northward, parallel to the Arakan Fold, as far as the extinct volcano of Puppadoung, east of Pagan, not far from Lat. 21°.

1: Radcliffe-Brown E-5 (1906-1908)1922
AZ2 Andamans AZ2

Middle Andaman, Baratang and South Andaman. It is a long narrow stretch of land with a much indented coast, surrounded by many smaller islands, of which the most important are Interview Island off the west coast, Ritchie's Archipelago on the east, Rutland Island at the extreme south, and the outlying North Sentinel Island. The length of the Great Andaman with Rutland Island is nearly 160 miles, while the breadth from sea to sea is nowhere more than 20 miles. The Little Andaman lies to the south of the Great Andaman, about 30 miles distant from Rutland Island, from which it is separated by a shallow strait with a maximum depth of only 21 fathoms. The island is about 26 miles long from north to south and about 16 miles wide.

Viewed from the sea the islands appear as a series of hills, nowhere of any great height, covered from sky-line to high-water mark with dense and lofty forest. The hill-ranges run approximately north and south, in the same direction as the islands themselves, and attain a greater elevation on the east than on the west. The highest point of the North Andaman is Saddle Peak (2402 feet), that of Middle Andaman is Mt Diavolo (1678 feet), while the South Andaman has the Mt Harriett Range (1505 feet), and in Rutland Island there is Mt Foord (1422 feet). There are no streams of any size. The water drains from the hills into tidal creeks running through mangrove swamps, often many miles in length. The coast is broken by a number of magnificent harbours. The shores are fringed with extensive coral reefs, and on these and in the creeks there is abundance of fish and molluscs.

The islands, save for the clearings of the Penal Settlement, are covered with dense tropical forest. There are few mammals, the only two of any size being a species of pig (*Sus andamanensis*, Blyth) and a civet-cat (*Paradoxurus tytlerii*, Tytler). The other mammals are a few species of rats, a tree-shrew and some species of bats. Of birds there are many different species, some of them peculiar to the islands. The reptiles include a considerable number of species of snakes, and a few species of lizards, of which the most noteworthy is the large Monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*).

1: Radcliffe-Brown E-5 (1906-1908)1922
AZ2 Andamans AZ2

Colebrooke in 1790 came across an individual of this tribe and obtained from him a vocabulary. A comparison of this vocabulary with the language of the Little Andaman shows it to be essentially the same language[1].

A few words must be said on the position of the natives of the North Sentinel Island. Almost nothing is known of these people. What little information is available concerning their weapons and implements seems to point to their belonging to the Little Andaman Division. There is no communication between them and either the Great Andaman or the Little Andaman. It is possible that they have been separated from the other Andamanese as long as those of the Little Andaman have been separated from those of the Great Andaman, and would therefore constitute a third separate division. The South Sentinel Island is uninhabited.

The total area of the Andamans is estimated to be about 2500 square miles. This area is divided as follows:—

	Sq. miles.
North Andaman, being the territory of the four tribes Aka-Cari, Aka-Kora, Aka-Bo, and Aka-Jeru	540
Middle Andaman and Baratang, occupied by four tribes, Aka-Kede, Aka-Kol, Oko-Juwoi and A-Pucikwar	790
The Archipelago, occupied by the Akar-Bale tribe	140
The South Andaman, occupied by the Aka-Bea and the Jarawa	630
North Sentinel Island	30
Little Andaman	370
	2500

It is not possible to give accurately the area occupied by each tribe, as the boundaries are difficult to discover. The *Aka-Bea* is in an exceptional position, as there was no definite boundary between them and the *Jarawa*. The two parties of natives lived in the same territory at enmity with each other. It would seem that the *Aka-Bea* kept on the whole more to the coast, while the *Jarawa* lived in the interior.

[1] In 1906 some Little Andaman visitors to Rutland Island captured a *Jarawa* of that part. They told me that though he spoke differently from them, they could understand him fairly well.

1: Radcliffe-Brown E-5 (1906-1908)1922
AZ2 Andamans AZ2

619
●131 Leaving aside the *Aka-Bea*, the largest of the Great Andaman tribes, as regards area of territory, was the *Aka-Kede*, which possessed over 300 square miles. After this tribe in order of size come the *A-Pučikwar*, *Aka-Jeru* and *Aka-Kǫra* tribes, while the smaller ones are the *Oko-Juwoi*, *Aka-Kǫl*, *Aka-Bo*, *Akar Bale* and *Aka-Čari*, the last being perhaps the smallest of all.

161 In 1901 an enumeration of the natives of the Great Andaman was attempted in connection with the census of India. Such an enumeration was of course very difficult, and liable to considerable error. The results are given in the following table:—

Name of Tribe	Adults		Children		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Aka-Cari	16	15	6	2	39
Aka-Kora	31	32	14	19	96
Aka-Bo	15	16	7	10	48
Aka-Jeru	98	80	26	14	218
Aka-Kede	24	30	3	2	59
Aka-Kol	6	2	3		11
Oko-Juwoi	21	19	7	1	48
A-Pucikwar	31	14	2	3	50
Akar-Bale	5	10	3	1	19
Aka-Bea	14	16	3	4	37
Total	261	234	74	56	625

These figures are likely to be more accurate for the southern tribes (the last five on the list) than for the northern tribes. It is probable that, in the North Andaman, some of the persons enumerated were entered under the wrong tribe. For many years the officers of the Andamans did not know of the existence of the *Aka-Kǫra* and *Aka-Bo* tribes, and members of these tribes have fallen into the habit of describing themselves to Europeans as either *Aka-Jeru* or *Aka-Čari*. My own opinion is that the numbers given for the *Aka-Jeru* tribe are too large, while those of the *Aka-Kǫra* and *Aka-Bo*, and perhaps also the *Aka-Kede*, are too small.

For the census of 1901 an attempt was made to estimate the numbers of the *Jarawa* and the natives of the Little Andaman, any attempt at enumeration being impossible. The estimate given was as follows:—

2: Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

INTRODUCTION.

In considering the habits, customs, and physical peculiarities of a savage race, it is important to acquire as much information as possible regarding the land they inhabit, and also to ascertain the nature and extent of the influences exercised by, or resulting from, their intercourse with other nationalities. It is therefore my purpose to present the reader, by way of introduction, with a brief sketch giving a few of the many points of interest connected with the Andamans, and referring to the writings of Messrs. Ball, Hume, Kurz, and other specialists for information regarding the geology, ornithology, &c., of the islands, which subjects are deemed to lie somewhat outside the scope of this volume.

The Andaman Islands, which till within the last hundred years were almost *terræ incognitæ*, are situated in the Bay of Bengal, between the 10th and 14th parallels of N. lat. and near the meridian 93 E. of Greenwich; they comprise what are known as the Great and the Little Andamans, and, together with the Coco and Preparis Islands to the north, and the Nicobar Islands which lie to the south, form a volcanic chain extending between the province of Pegu and the northernmost point of Sumatra.

Great Andaman[1] is about 140 miles long, and includes not only the three main islands known as North, Middle, and South Andaman, but also the Archipelago, Interview, Rutland, and various lesser islets adjacent to its sea-board.[2] At a con-

[1] For the possible derivation of the name "Andaman," the reader is referred to Part I, p 2.

[2] The names of which may be ascertained by reference to the accompanying map.

2:Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

131 siderable distance eastward of Great Andaman, but connected with the group, are two small uninhabited islands known as Narcondam and Barren Island, both of which contain volcanoes, though the latter only is active at the present day. To the south, and about midway between Great Andaman and the northernmost point of the Nicobar group, lies Little Andaman, consisting of a single island about 27 miles in length, and varying in breadth from 10 to 16 miles; there are also a few small islets near its coast.

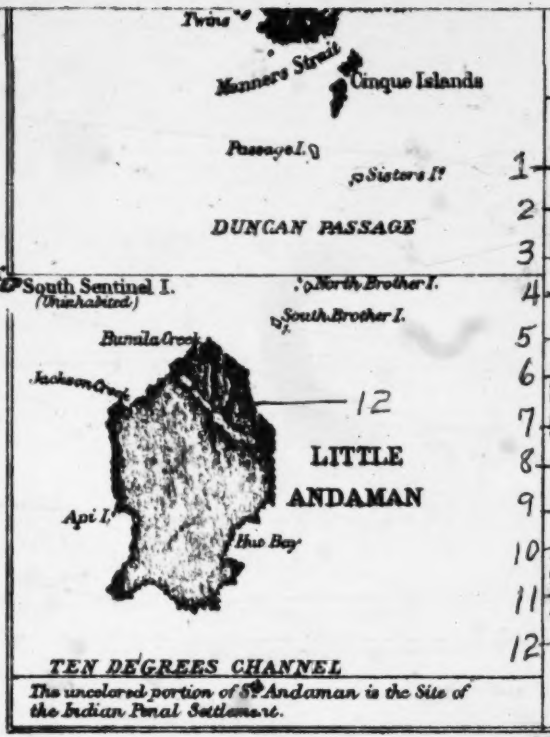
None of the islands exceed 20 miles in breadth, and the area of the entire group is estimated at about 2,508 square miles, four-fifths of which are comprised in Great Andaman.

133 Nearly all the high land occurs in the vicinity of the east coast, shelving gradually towards the west, where few, and those but minor, elevations are to be found. The principal hills are: Saddle Peak[1] (2,400 feet) in North Andaman, overlooking Port Cornwallis; Ford's Peak (1,400 feet) on Rutland Island; and Mount Harriet (1,100 feet) in South Andaman, commanding the harbour of Port Blair.

132 The climate of the Andamans much resembles that of Lower Burmah, and the temperature throughout the year is very uniform; the variation in the shade during the dry season is about 22°, and averages 17° during the remainder of the year; the extreme variation throughout the twelve months may be estimated at 26°, viz., between 70° and 96°. The cool season sets in during the last weeks of December and early part of January, and the hot season lasts through the months of March and April. The S.W. monsoon commences in the latter part of April or early in May, and usually terminates about the end of October, but on the change in the direction of the wind to N.E. heavy showers frequently occur for several weeks, and even, though at rare intervals, in January and February. The average number of wet days in the year is 182, and the rainfall 116 inches; the dry season is usually characterised during the first two months by strong winds from N.E., which cause sickness and prove equally prejudicial to vegetation. Although it has been ascertained that many of the most severe cyclones which have occurred in the Bay of Bengal during the past twenty-five years have had their origin in the immediate vicinity of the Andamans, only one is recorded (viz., in 1864) as having visited the islands themselves; in the same period there have been a few earthquakes, the first of which mention is made took place in August, 1868, and the next in February, 1880, from which time several slight shocks were felt until, in December (31st), 1881, another severe earthquake visited the group, the effects of which were

[1] The only ascent on record of Saddle Peak was made in February, 1882, by Major M. Protheroe, C.S.I., and other officers of Port Blair.

2:Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2



Geographical Miles.

0 10 20 30 40 50

EXPLANATION.

		Designation of Territory in S. Andaman dialect.	Situation.	Name of Tribe	Collectively.
NORTH	1	Elâkà-Chârîâr (da)	Islands off NAW. of N. Andaman	Âkà-Chârîâr (da)	Âkà Yârewa (da)
	2	Elâkà-Kôrâ (da)	Coast of the northern half of N. Andaman	Âkà-Kôrâ (da)	
	3	Elâkà-Tâbé (da)	Interior of N. Andaman	Âkà-Tâbé (da)	
	4	Elâkà-Yêre (da)	Coast of southern half of N. Andaman & N.E. corner of Middle Andaman	Âkà-Yêre (da)	
CENTRAL	5	Elâkà-Kede (da)	N. half of Mid. Andaman & S.W. corner of N. Andaman with interview I.	Âkà-Kede (da)	
	6	Kâpa-tòng (da)	Coast & interior of central portion of Middle Andaman	Ôko-Jâwai (da)	
	7	Elâkà-Kôl (da)	Central portion of East Coast of Middle Andaman	Âkà-Kôl (da)	
	8	Elâkà-Bôjigyâb (da)	S.E. corner of Mid. Andaman including part of Bâra-tâng I. & adjacent islets	Âkà-Bôjigyâb (da)	Bôjigngiji (da)
SOUTH	9	Elâr-Jâru (da)	The Archipelago with Button I.	Âkà-Balawa (da)	
	10	Elâkà-Bêa (da)	Coast of South Andaman & Rutland I. the Labyrinth Islands & S.W. corner of Middle Andaman	Âkà Bêa (da)	
	11	Elâkà-Jârawa (da)	Part of interior of S. Andaman Rutland & Bâra-tâng I.* also North Sentinel	Jârawa (da) (off-shoot of the Onge tribe)	
	12	Pîtâng (da) or Wilima-târa (da)	Little Andaman	Ônge	

* Bâra tâng is reckoned a portion of Middle Andaman.

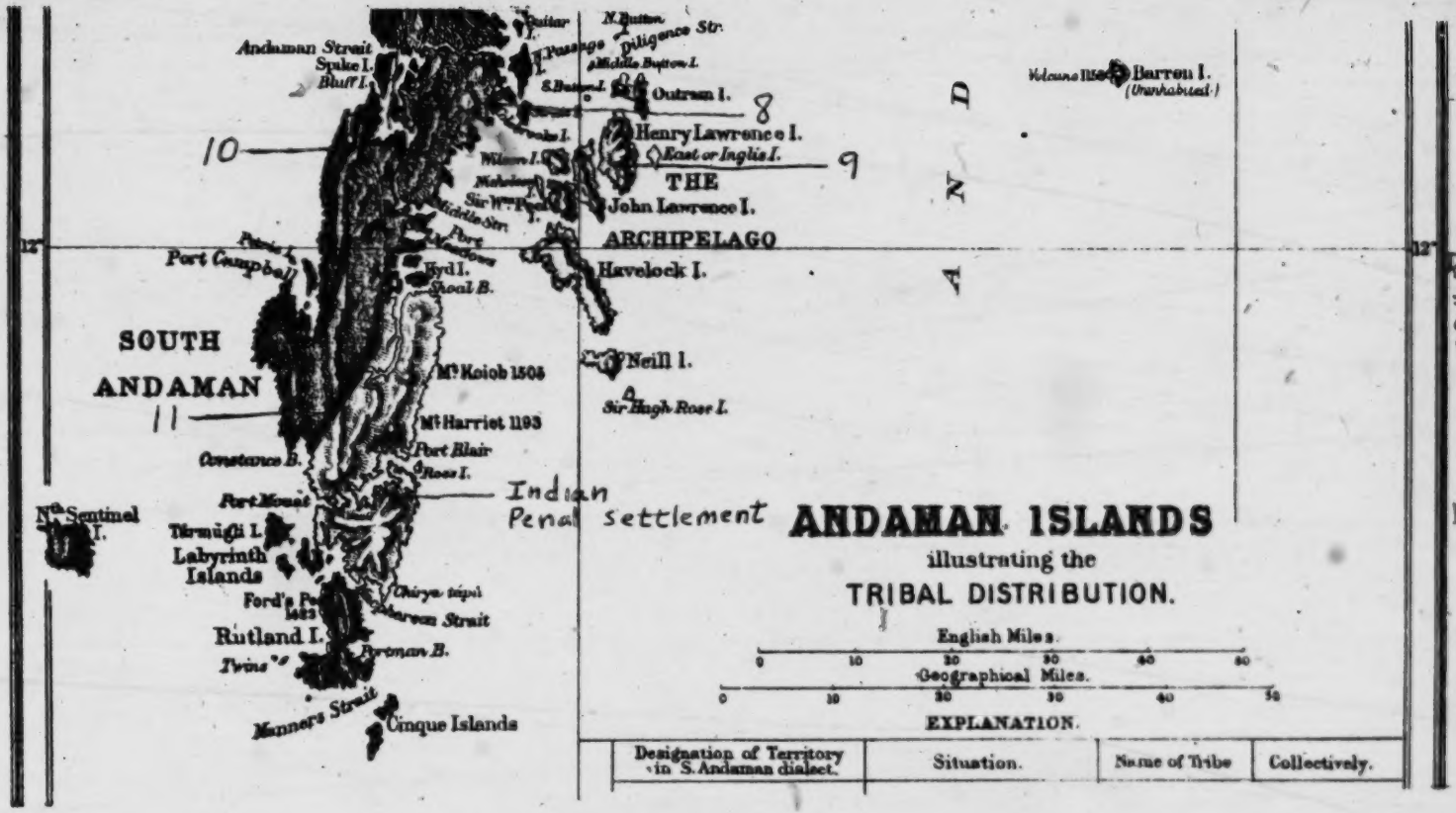
93° Longitude East from Greenwich. 94°

E. H. MAN. del. F.S. Waller F.R.G.S.

[Numbers added to replace colors -- Analyst facing p. 224A]

619 31

2:Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2



ANDAMAN ISLANDS

illustrating the

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION.

English Miles.

0 10 20 30 40 50

Geographical Miles.

0 10 20 30 40 50

EXPLANATION.

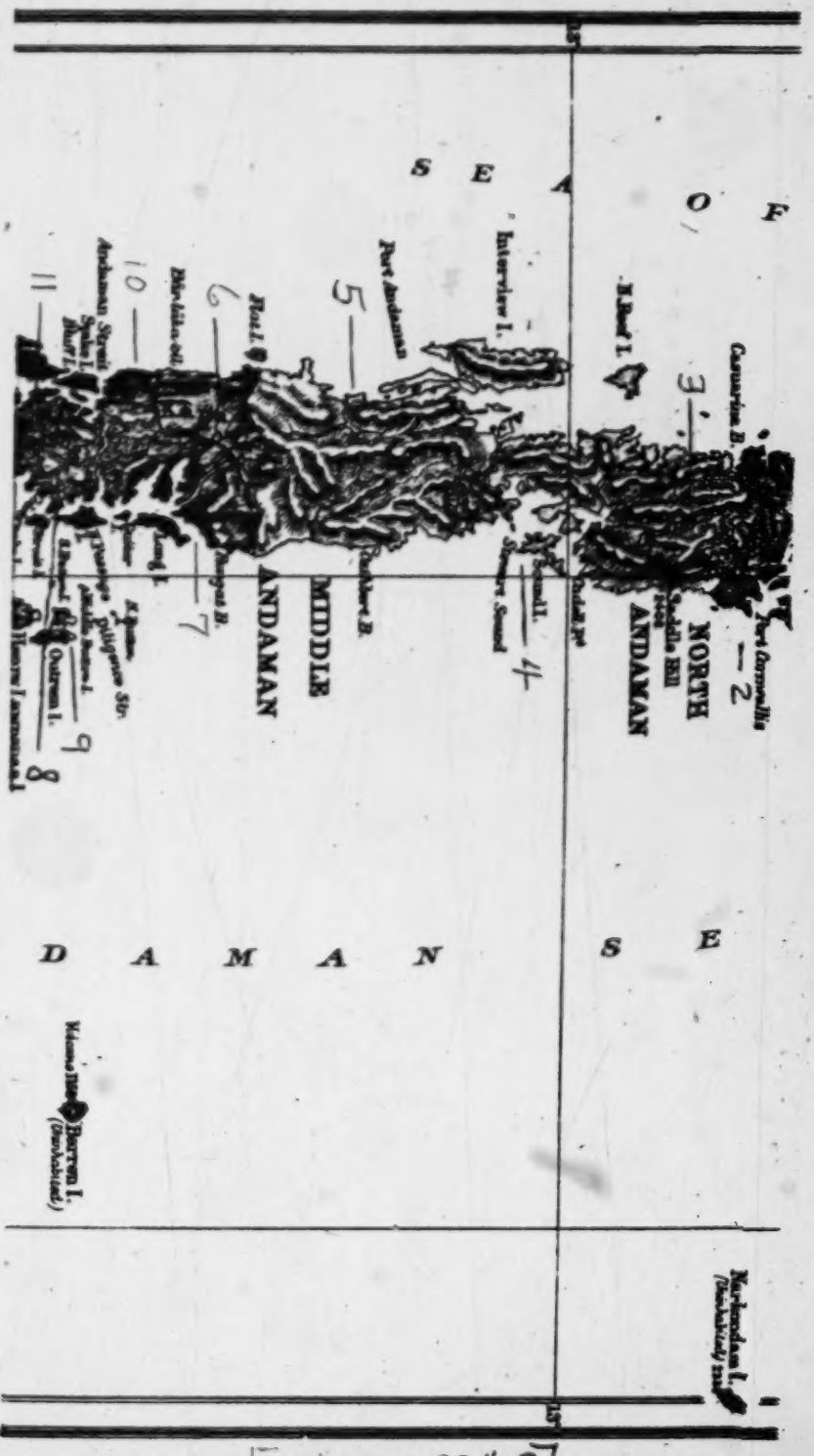
Designation of Territory in S. Andaman dialect.	Situation.	Name of Tribe	Collectively.

[Facing P. 224 B]

619
131

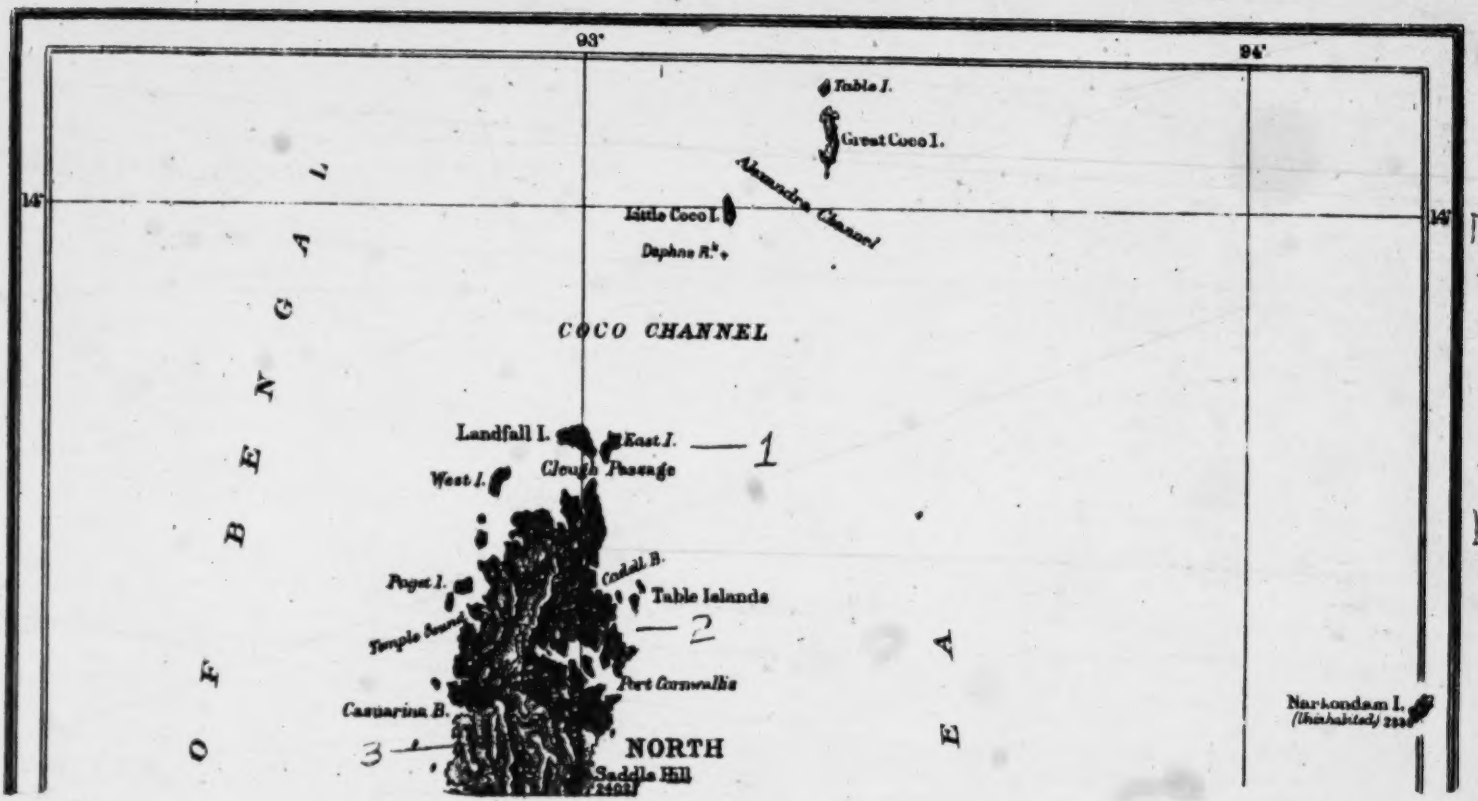
2:Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

619
131



[facing p. 224 C]

2:Man G-5 (1869-1880)1932 AZ2 Andamans AZ2



Facing P. 224 D

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131

Temple G-5 (1901) 1903 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

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[Facing p. 1]

3: Temple G-5 (1901) 1903 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

PART I.

THE ANDAMANESE.

CHAPTER I.

THE CENSUS.

Conditions of Census-taking—Impossibility of Synchronous Census—Intelligent Assistance from Aborigines impossible—Hostile Tribes estimated only—Control of Operations—Census Tours—Method of Enumeration—Officers' Diaries—Method of estimating Önges and Jarawas—Attitude of the Andamanese—Points as to Defects in Enumeration—Jarawa Hostility—The Returns of the Andamanese—The former Population—Diagram of Past and Present Assumed Density—Methods of arriving at Former Density—The Kitchen-Middens—Future Prospects of the Race.

619
484

Conditions of Census-taking.—The conditions under which a Census of the Andamanese was attempted were the following. In the first place there are Andamanese "Homes" in the Penal Settlement maintained by the Government, to which any Andamanese of any Tribe may come and stay as long as he chooses. In the next place, for reasons hereafter to be explained, practically all the tribes but one are "friendly" and are at the present time very much mixed up with each other. In this mixed condition they are nomads, much given to rapid wandering all over the islands of the group known as the Great Andaman, in which the Penal Settlement is situated. In their most imperfect condition of civilisation it was quite hopeless to expect to induce them to remain in any one place for even one night or for any given period. And thus the first great difficulty to combat in attempting to enumerate them was to prevent the same persons from being counted twice or more times over.

●131

Impossibility of Synchronous Census.—This difficulty was increased by the impossibility, owing to the nature of the country they inhabit, from enumerating the people all at once or at anything approaching a uniform time. As will be seen later on, the Andamans consist of the Great Andaman group and the Little Andaman, attached to each of which are a great number of smaller islands and islets. There is also the inhabited North Sentinel at some distance to the west of the general group. The Great Andaman consists of five main islands running from north to south thus:—North Andaman, Middle Andaman, Baratang, South Andaman, Rutland Island. All these are dove-tailed into each other by very narrow straits, not so wide as the ordinary rivers of a continent. The Little Andaman is situated at a considerable distance to the south. All round the Great Andaman are islands of every size; to the east is Ritchie's Archipelago and to the west are the Labyrinth Islands Every single island of the whole group is covered with a hilly jungle, the denseness of which must be seen to be appreciated, and passable only to its indigenous inhabitants. It is therefore impossible without much preparation and expense to traverse the interior of the islands, but happily it is quite easy to move about the deeply indented coasts, containing more harbours and snug anchorages than the whole Indian Peninsula. The length of the Great Andaman group is 156 miles: its average width is 9 to 10 miles and with the outlying islands some 25 miles. Two distant islands, Narcondam and Barren Island, to the east are also included in the Andaman group, but they are both uninhabited. It was, therefore, necessary to go over this area by coasting voyages, to stop at likely spots for encampments and to hunt about for the nomadic inhabitants of the neighbourhood: a work requiring much local knowledge, personal judgment and patience.

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Intelligent Assistance from Aborigines impossible.—From the nature of the case it will be understood that very little reliance could be placed on the people themselves for assistance in the enumeration. Their inveterate, indeed necessary, habits of wandering, their childlike incapacity for responsibility of

3: Temple G-5 (1901) 1903 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTIVE.

I. Geography.—Position and General Description of the Andaman Islands—The Submarine Range between the Pegu Yomas and Sumatra—The Submarine Contours—The Great and Little Andaman—The Harbours—The Hills—The Scenery—Surveys.
II. Meteorology.—Commercial Value of the Meteorology—Climate—Cyclonic Storms—Rainfall—Weather—General Statistics—Tides.
III. Geology.—General Geology—The Subsidence of the Islands—Earthquakes—The Conchology—Marine Fauna—Economic Zoology—The Forests—The Timber and its Economic Uses—The Imported Flora—General Character of the Forests.
IV. History.—Ancient Notices of the Islands—Origin of the name—Mediæval and Modern Notices of the Islands—Modern History of the Islands and people.

I. Geography.

131 **Position and General Description of the Andaman Islands.**—The Andaman Islands, large and small, are said to number 204 and lie in the Bay of Bengal, 590 geographical miles from the Hooghly mouth, 120 miles from Cape Negrais in Burma, the nearest point from the mainland, and about 340 from the north extremity of Sumatra. Between the Andamans and Cape Negrais intervene two small groups, Preparis and Cocos; between the Andamans and Sumatra intervene the Nicobar Islands, all indicating a submarine range connected with the Aracan Yoma Range of Burma, stretching in a curve, to which the meridian forms a tangent, between Cape Negrais and Sumatra; and though this curved line measures 700 miles, the widest sea space is about 91 miles. The extreme length of the Andaman Group is 219 miles, with an extreme width of 32 miles.

The principal outlying islands are the North Sentinel, a dangerous island of about 28 square miles, lying about 18 miles off the west coast of the South Andaman; the remarkable marine volcano, Barren Island, 1,158 feet, quiescent for the last hundred years, 71 miles to the North-East of Port Blair; and the equally curious isolated mountain, the extinct volcano known as Narcondam, rising 2,330 feet out of the sea, 71 miles east of the North Andaman.

The land area of the Andaman Islands is taken as 2,508 square miles.

To the west of the Andamans, distant about 18 miles, are the dangerous Western Banks and Dalrymple Bank, rising to within a few fathoms of the surface of the sea and forming, with the two Sentinel Islands, the tops of a line of submarine hills parallel to the Andamans: to the east, some 40 miles distant, is the Invisible Bank with one rock just awash, and 34 miles south-east of Narcondam is a submarine hill rising to 377 fathoms below the surface of the sea. Narcondam, Barren Island, and the Invisible Bank, a great danger of these seas, are in a line almost parallel to the Andamans inclining somewhat towards them.

133 **The Submarine Range between the Pegu Yomas and Sumatra.**—Certain physiological facts have long been held, in combination with phenomena exhibited by the fauna and flora of the respective terminal countries, to point to the former existence of a continuous range of mountains, thought to be subaerial, from Cape Negrais in Burma on the north to Achin Head in Sumatra on the south. According to the doubtful authority of Wilford, Hindu legends notice this remarkable range, ascribing it to Rama, who attempted here first to

4: Guha E-5 (1948-1949)1953 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Karen AP7

for such a fairly long period, it was decided to give up the idea of continuing our survey of the Little Andaman that year.

At the suggestion of Mr Majid it was finally decided instead to pay a visit to the surviving members of the Friendly Andamanese tribes at Neil and Havelock Islands where they had now been transferred and settled. Unfortunately, as it was March and the closing month of the financial year, I had to return to my headquarters at Banaras and leave Mr Sarkar in charge of the party to carry on further surveys in the North and Middle Andamans as far as this was found possible.

Accordingly Mr Sarkar with his party left Port Blair on 6-3-48 on the Forest Motor Launch "Lindsay" and arrived at Long Island at about 8 A.M. on the following day. Mr Sarkar was met by Mr Joseph, T. S. D. O. who brought "Loka" and his party of four Andamanese. They were studied by him. The party left Long Island on the Forest Launch "Kokhari" at about 7-30 A.M. on the following day. Mr Joseph accompanied the party, who halted at the Guitar Island where some of Loka's associates were hunting turtles with harpoons. After leaving Guitar Island, the launch passed through Homfray Strait. Mr Joseph showed the spot where the Jarawas in 1925 attacked his camp. This is near the place from where the Jarawas usually crossed from the Baratang Island to the Middle Andamans. Proceeding further westwards, Mr Sarkar and his party reached the north-east end of the Spike Island. This is another route of migration of the Jarawas from the South to North Andamans. Usually they come from the South Andaman and cross over to Bluff Island and then reach the Spike Island opposite to it. Loka gave the information that it was about this place that several Jarawas were shot sometime back and their bodies were buried in the Bluff Island. The party went along the coast of Neil Island and anchored off Foul Bay. Human footprints identified by Mr Joseph and Loka as belonging to the Jarawas were found in the sand. Following the footprints the party found the remnants of burnt ashes and cinder in a spot in the jungle. There were also vessels made of leaves for carrying water which were still wet. These were collected as specimens of Jarawa objects for the Department's collections. No traces of Jarawas themselves could however be found who must have moved into the jungles just prior to our party's visit. Our men then crossed over to Bluff Island and searched for the Jarawa skeletons, but none were found. On the 9th of March the "Kokhari" returned to Long Island, where it anchored. Loka brought his party of 21 individuals who were now settled in Neil Island. These people were carefully studied by Mr Sarkar and notes taken regarding their geneology, family structure and physical state, etc. On the 9th the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Mr S. C. Gupta with his wife arrived at Long Island. Mr Sarkar and his party accompanied him to Stewart Sound in his boat "Elsa". Unfortunately the few Andamanese who were living there happened to have gone out in their canoes for fishing and could not be contacted (*see* Plate I, Fig. 5).

They then went with Mr Gupta to the Karen village called *Webi* situated at a short distance from Stewart Sound. There were no Andamanese there,

Our knowledge of their language is restricted to lists of words collected from captive Jarawas by COLEBROOK in 1789—90 and by PORTMAN in the 19th century. 114 648

Research on the Jarawa would by highly desirable, but will be impossible as long as they remain hostile.

Census of India, 1901, Vol. III, *The Andaman and Nicobar Islands*, by Sir RICHARD C. TEMPLE, pp. 4, 52—53, 68—90, 117—121. 113

Census of India, 1911, Vol. II, *The Andaman and Nicobar Islands*, by R. F. LOWIS, pp. 7, 31—39, 82—83.

Census of India, 1921, Vol. II, *The Andaman and Nicobar Islands*, by R. F. LOWIS, pp. 5, 39—43.

Census of India, 1931, Vol. II, *The Andaman and Nicobar Islands*, by M. C. C. BONINGTON, pp. 8—9, 15—16, 23.

A. R. RADCLIFFE-BROWN, *Notes on the Languages of the Andaman Islands*, Anthropos, vol. IX, 1914, pp. 38—39.

The Andaman Islanders, 2nd ed., Cambridge, 1933, pp. 86, 410, 413—415, 423, 432—433, 439—440.

North Sentinel Island

North Sentinel is an island of about 30 square miles west of the southern tip of Great Andaman. It has been briefly visited by Government officers on various occasions, but it seems that no contacts were ever made with the natives, except on December 27th, 1886, when the Ongi, who accompanied PORTMAN on his trip, "caught" some of them (Census of India, 1901, p. 92). From PORTMAN's report it does not become clear whether or not he saw these temporary captives himself. Our knowledge of the culture is restricted to a few observations on their material possessions. The communal huts differ from those of the rest of the Andamanese. The canoes differ from those of both Great and Little Andaman, but are more like those of the latter. The bows resemble those of the Jarawa and Ongi. On the basis of this it is assumed that the natives are related to the Jarawa and Ongi, but PORTMAN's Ongi companions are said to have found that the persons whom they had caught talked "an entirely different language". 101 [131] 648 [197]

In 1901 the number of the natives was estimated as 117. This estimate was based on the area of the island and the assumption that the density of the population was approximately the same as that of great Andaman in precolonial times. The figure was not changed in either 1911 or 1921. In 1931 the number was estimated as 50 "on conclusions arrived at from several visits during the last decade and after counting the number of huts found and the sleeping places", but it is said that this does not necessarily mean a decrease in population. "It is believed that the population is stationary, for 161

9:Sarkar D-5 (1948) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Jarawa

[P.690]

The Jarawa of the Andaman Islands

By S. S. Sarkar (Calcutta)

Introduction

101 131 The Jarawa of the Andaman Islands are confined along the western coast of South Andaman, where their movements are restricted – roughly speaking – between Port Anson on the north and Constance Bay on the south (fig. 1). They are also reported from the southwestern part of the island of Baratang – an island completely separated from South and Middle Andaman. The latter group must, therefore, use some kind of watercraft to cross over from one island to the other. The extreme northern tip of the South Andaman [501] Island was until recently used by the Jarawa for crossing over to Middle Andaman through the two intervening Islands of Spike and Bluff with the help of bamboo rafts (Sarkar, 1954). This route has now been checked owing to the establishment of a police picket on Bluff Island.

101 131 501 The Jarawa also appear to have used some sort of watercraft to migrate into North Sentinel Island in the distant past. Their craft may have been similar to the outrigger canoes described by Bonig (1912) on the occasion of his visit to this island. The distance from Port Mouat to North Sentinel is about 24 miles and although Bonig says that "the boats are not very seaworthy" this distance must at one time have been crossed by the ancestors of the present-day inhabitants of North Sentinel Island. Bonnington (1932) used the term Sentinelese for them, while Lowis (1912, 1923) preferred to call them Jarawa. It appears from what little is known about them that they are more akin to the Jarawa of South Andaman than to the other Negrito groups. No canoes are reported from among the Jarawa of South Andaman ; it appears that the bamboo raft is enough for their transport on water. The Jarawa [184] outrigger canoes of North Sentinel Island, which Bonig mentions as somewhat different from those of the Onge or the Andamanese, indicate a somewhat higher cultural status of the former as compared with the groups living on South Andaman.

9:Sarkar D-5 (1948) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Jarawa

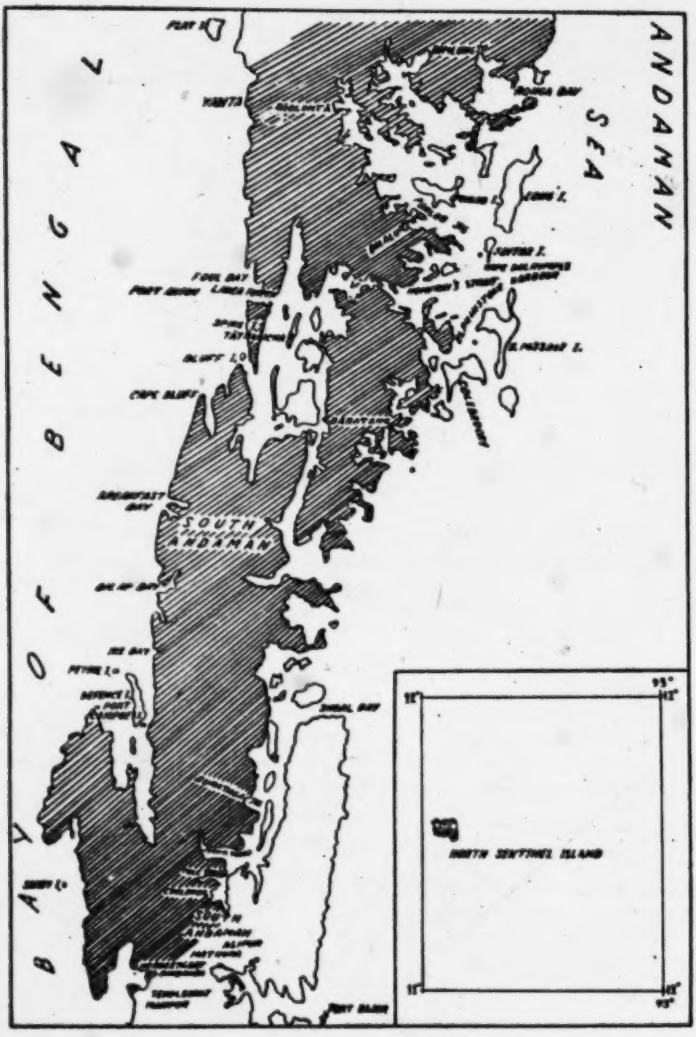

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Fig. 1

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Nicobars AZ7

[P vii]

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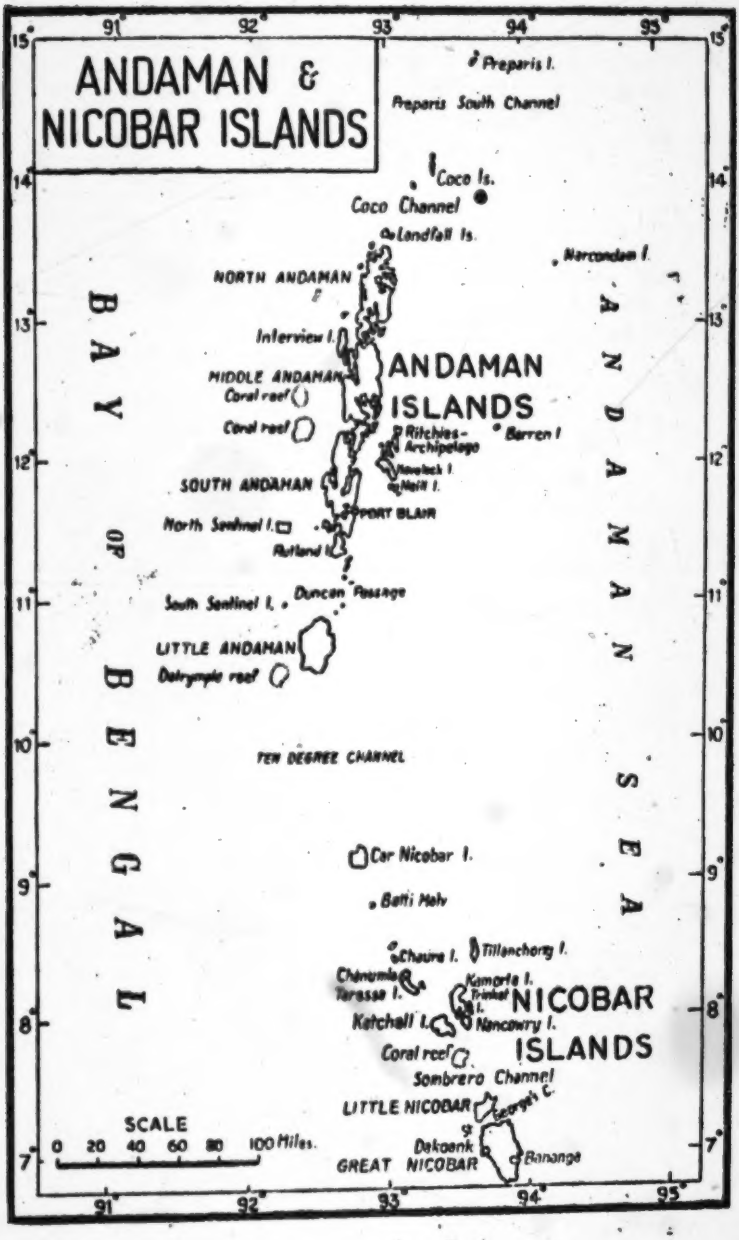

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Nicobars AZ7

[P. viii]

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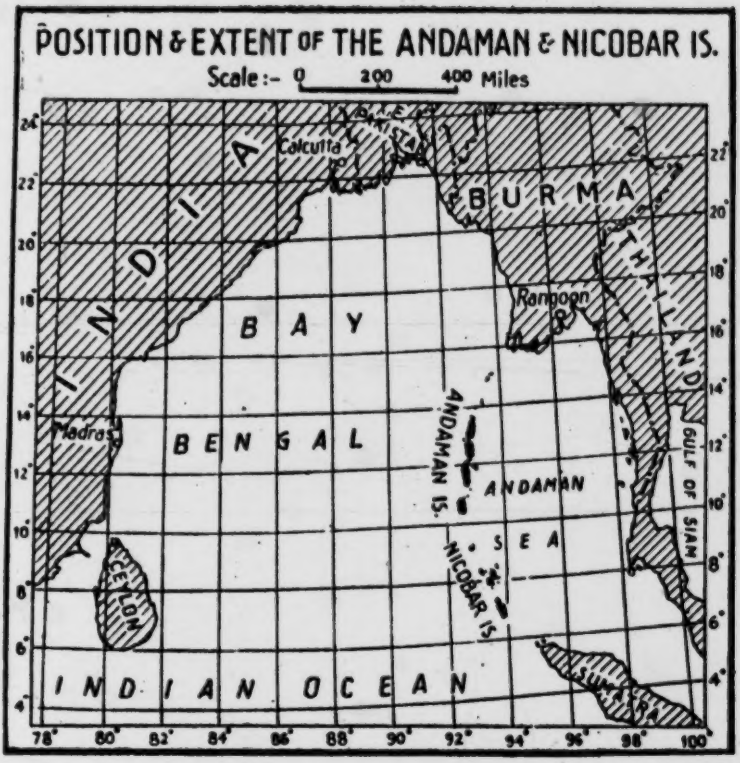

Refer to Chapter No. 1., Page No. 1.

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

161 177 182 Of the two main groups of aborigines, the Great Andaman Group and the Little Andaman Group, the former being the most widespread and numerous in the Great Andamans has become completely non-existent depicting the example of the decay within an extremely short time, especially since the impact of the foreign people. The fate of the later group is also quite shattering—the Jarawas have experienced both numerical decay and territorial shrinkage and the Onges are the only tribes who live exclusively in the Little Andaman but they have been also facing the signs of decay.

133 A glance at the map of the Andaman islands and adjacent countries shows the continuity of these islands with the Arakan Yoma of Burma in the north and with the Indonesian islands in the south. The islands of both the Andaman and Nicobar groups are primarily of sedimentary formations of the Eccene period with occasional igneous intrusions. Later formations of coral are also quite widespread. The surface topography of the regions is typically flat-topped being typical of the sandstone regions and the peaks are in most cases formed of igneous intrusions. The islands are comprised of a number of longitudinal ranges running from the north to the south and in between the ranges short streams flow. The heights of the hills are generally 1000′ and never exceed 2500′.

132 The islands experience a high annual temperature and the yearly rainfall is as high as 130 inches in Port Blair and the amount decreases as one moves to the north and the east. The ameliorating influence of the sea is quite appreciable.

131 With an area of 2508 square miles and the number of islands being as many as 204, only 4 main islands, North Andaman (490.20 sq miles), Middle Andaman (561.00 sq miles), South Andaman (359.51 sq miles) and Little Andaman (289.90 sq miles) have an area of more than 100 sq miles and the rest are sufficiently small in size either to command human settlement or economic activity.

101 The economy of the tribal people is of the primitive form of hunting and collecting though the precise modes of living vary to some extent depending upon the nature of environment under which they have to live. The knowledge of distribution and of actual number of these aborigines is far from accurate. The Andamanese were the most widespread in all parts of the Great Andamans and in the South Andaman they (Aka bea) had to remain vigilant against the possible attacks and territorial expansion of the Jarawas. The Andamanese, as said earlier, have completely died out. The Jarawas, though have dwindled to a negligible number,

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans
Nicobars AZ7

The Nicobar group of islands being separated off from the Andaman Islands by the Ten Degree Channel, though constitute a part of the continuation of the island in the north, the geographical entity of these islands are conspicuously different from that of the others. The Nicobar Islands have an area of 635 sq. miles and have 19 islands, out of which 12 islands are inhabited. The human habitats are exceedingly interesting and these people are distinctly different from the aborigines of the Andamans not only in their physical characteristics but also in their cultural attributes. Material life is much more improved and they have been all the time experiencing a healthy growth in comparison to the rapid decay of the Andaman aborigines. Culturally the affinity seems to be closer with the Indonesian islands. Shom Pens, the highlanders of the Great Nicobar, live in perfect isolation and have an extremely primitive economy. The staple crop is coconut and a number of fruit trees and yam are also grown. Some of the islands have become extremely overcrowded and need immediate dispersal to some of the less crowded islands. A detailed geographical treatment would require much more words to say about these thriving people and their contact with the foreigners than those of the Andamans. However it remains incomplete if the study of the Nicobar Islands is not incorporated in that of the Andaman islands. Therefore, in spite of the distinct geographical contrast with the Andamans, a short geographical summary has been given at the end of the book.[1]

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[1] [not processed. - Analyst]

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10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

[P. 1]

CHAPTER I

POSITION AND EXTENT

The Andaman Islands, comprised of a large number of islands amounting to as much as 204, cover an area of 2508 square miles. These groups of islands with the other ones in the south, known as the Nicobar islands, are the only Indian islands in the southeastern ocean frontier. The alignment of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is from the north to the south and these groups of islands have geological affinity with the adjacent countries i.e. Burma and Indonesia. These tropical islands possess some of the salient characteristics of the tropics given to the very primitive type of economy. 131

The Andamans lie between 10°30′ and 13°30′ north latitudes; and between 92°15′ and 95°15′ east longitudes. The extreme length and width are 219 and 32 miles respectively. At the extreme north is the Landfall island followed by the three main islands of the Andamans—the North Andaman, the Middle Andaman and the South Andaman, all of them being separated off from each other by shallow seas. Further South at a distance of 40 miles from the South Andaman lies the Little Andaman. Besides these there are innumerable small islands—Ritchie's Archipelago and the Sentinel Islands may be worthy of mention.

There is an absence of unanimous agreement regarding the number of the islands and their respective areas. No one has, however, been able to locate all the islands on the map but the estimate made by the Forest Department is considered as the most authoritative.

Area of the islands in square miles.

Island	*Area*
North Andaman	490.20
Middle Andaman	561.00
South Andaman	359.51
Landfall and 7 other islands in the North Andaman Group	27.92
Interview and 4 other islands in the Middle Andaman Group	59.00
Baratang and 4 other islands in the Baratang Group	11.34

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

Island				*Area*
Havelock and 6 other islands in the Ritchie's Archipelago Group	...	...	...	94.20
Rutland and 3 other islands in the South Andaman group of islands	...	...	...	73.86
Tarmughli and 4 other islands in the Labyrnth island	...	...	...	12.20
Little Andaman	...	...	...	289.90
166 other islands	...	...	...	430.97

But regarding the above statistics, Sri H. R. Shivdasani, I.C.S. writes as follows:—

'Obviously the area of 430.97 square miles for the other small islands is incorrect and far too much. It gives an average area of 2 square miles per island in which case they deserve individual mention when other islands of less than 1 square mile in area have come to special notice. Forest officers themselves admit that these 166 small islands cannot have a total area of 1430.97 square miles. We may assume that the information of the Punjab Delegation[1] is correct. Even so it would seem that if out of the other islands (735 square miles) we exclude Baratang, 90 square miles, and Little Andaman 290 square miles, there will be 200 small islands with a total area of 335 square miles'.[2]

The Andamans lie 590 miles from the Hooghly mouth, 120 miles from Cape Negrais of Burma and 340 miles from the northern extremity of Sumatra. In spite of the very close situation of the islands to the crowded countries like the mainland of India, Burma and the Indonesian countries, the contact has been quite feeble.

1 The Punjab Delegation went to the Andamans to explore the possibility of colonisation in the islands.

2 Shivdasani was sent to the Andamans with a party by the Government of India to study the aspect of colonisation in the islands in the year 1949.

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

MAP OF THE GEOLOGY OF THE ANDAMANS

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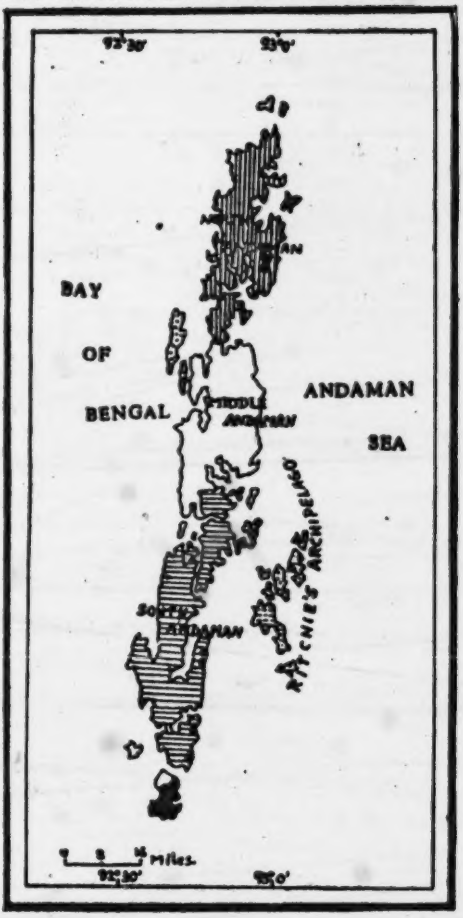

INDEX

- UNSURVEYED
- MIOCENE CLAYS OF RITCHIE'S ARCHIPELAGO.
- MIOCENE BURDIGALIAN FORAMINIFERAL LIMESTONES.
- SANDSTONE OF SOUTH ANDAMANS.
- EOCENE CONGLOMERATES OF N. & M. ANDAMANS.
- CRETACEOUS, SERPENTINE SERIES.

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

131 The Andamans consist of 204 islands of which the important islands of the main body from north to south are North Andaman, Middle Andaman, Baratang Island, South Andaman, Rutland and Little Andaman. Another group of islands lie some 15-20 miles off the east coast of Middle Andaman and they are primarily a group of a few islands-Neill, Havelock, Peet Is, Wilson Is, John Lawrence Is, Henry Lawrence Is, known as Ritchie's Archipelago.

PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE ANDAMANS

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10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS OF THE ANDAMANS

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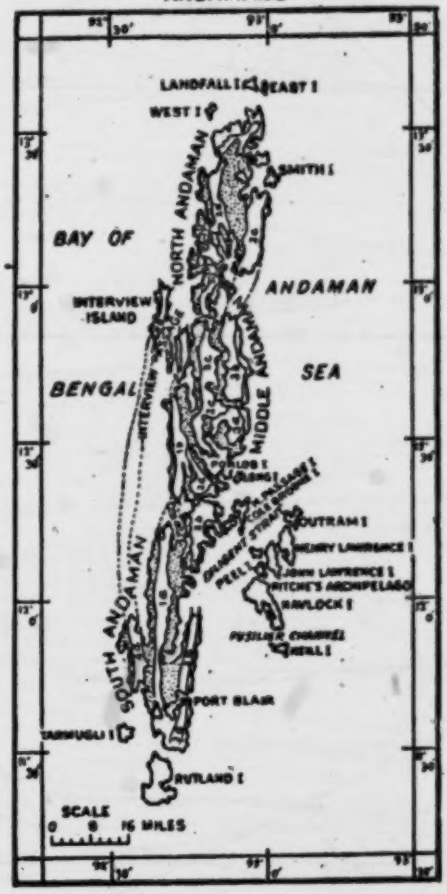


133 According to Swell, these variations in height are due to (1) an alteration of the pitch of the axis or (2) a variation in the rate of weathering and denudation in different regions. Swell says "A gradual fall towards the south and a subsequent rise in the level of the ridge, the differences between the highest peaks at each end, which rise to well over 8000' and the lowest of the peaks in the middle, namely, the island of Batti Malv which is only 150' above sea-level, is at the least some 8000' or approximately

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

CHAPTER IV

CLIMATE OF THE ANDAMANS

132 The situation of the Andamans between 10°30′ and 13°30′ north latitudes and 92°15′ and 93°10′ east longitudes makes the climate of these islands of the tropical type which closely approximates to the Equatorial one in the south. The islands are frequently disturbed by tropical storms and cyclones in specific months. The insular position of the islands in the Bay of Bengal in between two countries in the east and west, situation in the tropical zone, location in the path of travelling tropical storms and cyclones in specific months, influence of the tropical maritime air masses in the south and the air masses of the subcontinent of India and other countries of Asia in the north, considerable northsouth extension but appreciably small eastwest extension, broken coastline and peculiar shape, and the dominant functional controls of the northeast and southwest monsoons in the specific months of the year have all combined together to give a distinct feature of the climate of the Andamans. The influence of all these factors, in giving a characteristic impress over the islands, must be understood before we consider the general conditions of climate and the division of the islands into different such regimes and the influence of climate on agriculture.

THE DIFFERENT CLIMATIC CONTROLS.

Insular Position and Shape.

131 The insularity of the islands is obvious because of their presence in
132 the base of the funnel of the Bay of Bengal. The funnel is enclosed in the west and east by the east coast of the Indian mainland and the west coasts of Burma and Malay, and both these coastlines taper in the north in the deltaic region of Bengal. In the south the whole sea opens out and extends upto the Antartica. The islands, being 192 miles long and 32 miles wide, when maximum, with a number of bays and creeks penetrating deep into the interior of the islands make no spot on the Andamans more than 10 miles from the sea. This has helped the development of the maritime conditions of the islands at its maximum and has therefore, led to a great moderating influence of sea on temperature.

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

wreck. However, this idea is totally untenable. On the other hand there are sufficient grounds to believe that these aborigines came down from the lower region of Burma. On their arrival at the islands, they moved to the different parts of the islands and very likely, because of the different types of physical environment they developed different traits and as such a few groups of the population are discernible. They are the

(a) The Jarawas,
(b) " Onges,
(c) " Andamanese, and
(d) " Sentinelese.

All these groups, though physically akin to each other, have developed different social and economic traits and the ways of earning their food and constructing their shelters are conditioned by their immediate environment. These aborigines who had spread over the different parts of the Great Andamans are experiencing a gradual shrinkage in their areas of command because of the gradual expansion of the areas of the new settlers. The Jarawas are to-day confined to the western part of the South and Middle Andaman, the Andamanese, who are extremely limited in number are along the coastal areas, the Onges in the Little Andaman and Rutland Is. and the Sentinelese in the Sentinel islands. The relation of aborigines with the foreign people became one of deep distrust and hostility with some of the groups, especially the Jarawas and the Sentinelese, which has been very rightly explained by M. V. Portman as an outcome of the unfriendly attitude of the foreigners. The Onges and the Andamanese have however become very friendly with the foreigners. The number of the aboriginal population of the Andamans, is undoubtedly a matter of considerable speculation and it is more so in the case of the Jarawas and the Sentinelese whereas, for the Onges and the Andamanese the estimate is fairly correct.

The aboriginal population of the Andamans is fast declining in number and there is apprehension that inspite of the best of attempts, the chances of the survival of the aborigines for long ages are extremely limited. Undoubtedly, the aboriginal population of the Andamans is an object of interesting study. Such an interest grows out of its being the only purest negrito group in the world and the modes of their life depict very well the nature of symbiotic relationship existing between man and environment. Such a primitive economy of hunting and collecting has not changed appreciably inspite of the impact with the foreigners except imbibing some foreign vices.

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Onge

The contact of the Onges with the outsiders can only be traced since the efforts of M. V. Portman[1] to establish a friendly relation with these tribes from 1886 onwards. However the earlier contacts with the Chinese and Japanese were possible because these people used to frequent the shores of Little Andaman for collecting the valuable shells and the Onges used to be engaged by them as divers and in reciprocation they were given presents of alcohol and opium. In the initial stage of the attempt for establishing a friendly relation by Portman, the Onges proved themselves hostile which was evidenced from the poor fate of the crews of a ship 'Assam Valley' when it touched the shores of Little Andaman and it was through the great efforts of the punitive expedition led by W. L. Much that the dead bodies of the crews were recovered. Later on, a few Onges, all on a sudden, arrived at Cinque Island and were captured by M. V. Portman. Only 9 of them were detained and the rest 15 were released. These few captured Onges were closely observed and studied in Port Blair by Portman and were ultimately returned back to their native land, Little Andaman. The friendly treatment and the presents that these Onges had received from Portman, paved the path of establishing friendly relations with the Onges much easier and also made the subsequent visits of the foreigners much more welcome. After Portman, a few more contacts were made with the Onges by Prof. Lapicque in March, 1893, during the operations of 1911 and 1921, undertaken by Eicsktedt, a German anthropologist, in 1827, by Dr. B. S. Guha, Ex-Director Anthropological Survey of India in 1948 and by Lidio Cipriani, an Italian anthropologist in the year 1954 and in a few succeeding years. Still the knowledge about the Onges seems to be meagre.

Living exclusively in the Little Andaman and a few of them in the Rutland Island, the Onges live in groups on a septal basis with clear-cut boundaries of hunting group for each group. There is no permanent habitation or village of the Onges in any part of the Little Andaman and their huts are of two types—(a) the permanent type of communal hut called *bera*, and (b) the temporary type of shelter called *korale*.

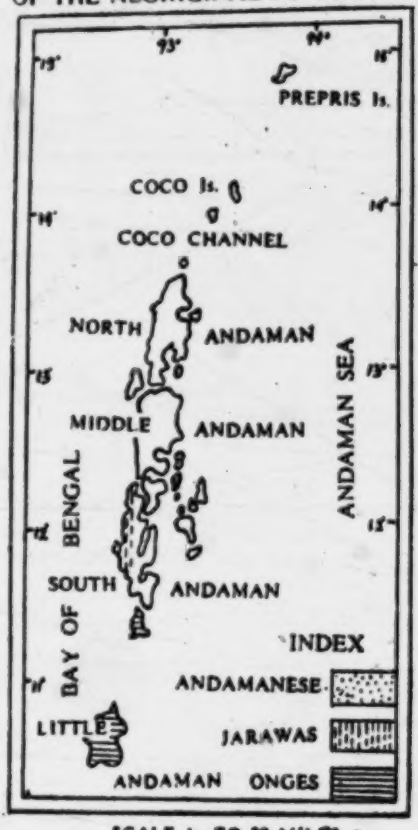
The abundance of food and water has made the life of the Onges comparatively easy-going. All the groups are headed by a leader and each group is assigned a fixed territory. The community life seems to be extremely democratic in character which entertains and also maintains a perfect individual freedom and only in times of necessity, advice,

1 Portman, M. V—History of one relations with the Andamanese.

10: Sen K-3, 4 (ca. 1955) 1962 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Negritos

This speaks very well how in some isolated spots of the islands a remnant of the widespread negrito of the past stand on the verge of imminent decay.

AREAS OF DISTRIBUTION
OF THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION



SCALE 1 TO 70 MILES

DEMOGRAPHIC SET UP

A group of aborigines with their pristine culture in these isolated islands are sharing the same fate with many other aboriginal population of the world, of a considerable decline and impoverishment. It is be-

11: Cipriani E-3 (1951-1955) 1966 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

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11: Cipriani E-3 (1951-1955) 1966 AZ2 Andamans AZ2
Nicobars AZ7

CHAPTER ONE

The People of the Islands

In the Bay of Bengal, eight hundred miles to the south-east of Calcutta and a hundred and twenty miles from Cape Nigrais in Burma, the two hundred and four islands of the Andaman archipelago stretch out in a line, with a surface area of 6,495 square kilometres. To the south-east, about a hundred miles away, lie the Nicobars, strung out in a much smaller chain covering only 1,645 square kilometres and made up of twenty-one islands, of which only twelve are inhabited.

The only islands in the Andamans which are permanently occupied are Great Andaman and Little Andaman. The former, three hundred and twenty kilometres long and at no point more than forty kilometres wide, was broken up by geological movement in ancient times into three sections, known as North, South and Middle Andaman. Today these are separated from each other by two narrow straits hardly navigable even by vessels of low tonnage. A much larger passage, the Ten Degree Channel, so called because it is crossed by the 10° north parallel, separates the Andamans from the Nicobars, and incidentally forms a dividing line between ordinarily different worlds, worlds which in the past, as I hope to show, had many characteristics in common.

The Nicobars are peopled by a very ancient Mongoloid race. There are no foreigners permanently resident apart from a family of Moslem merchants from India with a few employees. There are also the Shom-Pen, a small, wild and semi-nomadic group who have been forced back into the forests of Great Nicobar, where they preserve their ancient somatic and cultural characteristics, showing affinities with a Mongoloid people living far away on the chain of islands off the west coast of Sumatra.

11: Cipriani E-3 (1951-1955) 1966 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

162 The population of the Andamans, on the other hand, is now almost entirely of recent immigration: there are no Europeans permanently resident, but a large number of colonists of Indian, Burmese or Malayan origin have made their home in the islands. In the Indian census of 1951, the entire stable population of the Andamans and Nicobars was assessed at thirty thousand, 18,962 in the Andamans and 12,069 in the Nicobars, not counting the Shom-Pen. The few aboriginals remaining in the Andamans are anthropologically of extreme importance. Classified among the Negritos, or Asiatic pygmies, they are one of the few surviving groups of pygmies who in the past were widely scattered all over the world. They 101 can be divided into three groups, clearly distinguished one from 162 the other by their mode of life, their present genetic isolation 131 (although they certainly all originated from a common stock) and 648 their attitude towards outsiders:

1 The Arioto, the friendly Andamanese, once very numerous along the coast of Great Andaman and now reduced to only twenty-three individuals of pure stock; now almost completely sterile, they are near to extinction. They manage to survive only because of the help given to them by the Indian Government, which has established small camps along the coasts of Middle Andaman.

2 The Jarawas, still implacably hostile to foreigners, living a nomadic existence in South and Middle Andaman. One solitary group occupies a tiny island thirty miles west of South Andaman, surrounded by seas so stormy that they are frequently impassable. This is known as North Sentinel, to distinguish it from South Sentinel, twenty miles to the south and uninhabited. Landing on North Sentinel, as indeed penetrating anywhere on Great Andaman, has hitherto always entailed vicious fighting with the Jarawas, who are determined to repulse any stranger from their last refuge. They are well sheltered by an unbelievably dense forest, which has so far made it impossible to subdue them, though there are today probably no more than two hundred surviving.

3 The Onges, sole inhabitants of Little Andaman, into which they have withdrawn. There are not more than five hundred surviving today, and these are in a state of serious demographic decline. It is probable that before 1952 no one had ever approached their camps in the interior of the island. Until the present day, they

11: Cipriani E-3 (1951-1955) 1966 AZ2 Andamans AZ2

have always been protected by the sea, which is almost invariably rough, and by a thick tropical forest which extends without a break over more than a thousand square kilometres, unpenetrated by outsiders and almost impenetrable.

THE ARIOTO

The decline of the Andamanese began with the first landing of foreigners on the island and is similar to that of so many other primitive peoples who have come into contact with civilization; a detailed account of their decline would be long and pitiful. In the case of the Andamanese, however, demographic influences arising thousands of years ago must also be taken into account. Cut off by circumstances into small groups and separated at random by large expanses of sea or by the impenetrable forest, they gradually developed somatic and cultural differences of the greatest scientific interest. Among other things, languages became modified to such an extent that members of different groups are unable to understand one another. The Onges, for example, who in my opinion are the nearest relations of the Jarawas, are quite unable to understand their language.

The peoples of Great Andaman were the first to encounter civilization, when from 1858 onwards the Indian Government, then in English hands, decided to institute at Port Blair a penitentiary for the many political prisoners after the famous 1857 mutiny. Subsequently the government sent over convicts serving long or life sentences. The life of the deportees was atrocious during the first few years, owing to malaria and the absence of medical supplies. To the majority, therefore, deportation to the Andamans meant a death sentence. Even today the only large brick building in the Andamans and Nicobars is the penitentiary at Port Blair.

Before the building of the penitentiary the English had made several desultory expeditions to the Andamans, and even before then other foreigners had landed on the archipelago. It is known that Marco Polo, probably passing within sight of the archipelago in 1292, gave it the name of Angaman, and declared the inhabitants to be ferocious cannibals with dogs' heads. As a result, even the Asian pirates were for centuries afraid to land on the islands. The barbarous forays of Arab slave traders later awoke in the islanders